

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system, of:

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the requests;

receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote user; and

providing the proposed response to the remote user based on the remote user identification information.

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2. A method for aggregating and satisfying demand for travel products, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system, of:

aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information; and

providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote user based on the remote user identification information.

user device information?

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information includes the substeps of:

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of travel product suppliers;

and

receiving responses from a set of the travel product suppliers, each response including information reflecting a proposed group travel product, wherein each proposed group travel product reflects a discount for the corresponding travel product that is determined based on the aggregated information,

and wherein the step of providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote user based on the remote user identification information includes the substep of:

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transmitting travel option information related to at least one of the proposed
group travel products to a set of remote users based on the aggregated information.

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m for aggregating and sat
 e executing programs; and
 storing a program execut
 tructions for (i) aggregatin
 t requests associated with
 e user and including remo
 ted information to a plural
 hout also providing remo
 ving at least one proposed
 proposal for providing the
 d response to the remote u
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5. A system for aggregating and satisfying demand for travel products, comprising:

a processor for executing programs; and

a memory for storing a program executable by the processor, the stored program including instructions for (i) aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, (ii) selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information, and (iii) providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users based on the remote user identification information.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information includes (a) providing the aggregated information to a plurality of travel product suppliers, and (b) receiving responses from a set of the travel product suppliers, each response including information reflecting a proposed group travel product, wherein each proposed group travel product reflects a discount for the corresponding travel product that is determined based on the aggregated information, and wherein providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users based on the remote user identification information includes (a) transmitting travel option information related to at least one of the proposed group

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travel products to a set of the remote users based on the aggregated information.

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7. A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, the method comprising:

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the requests;

receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote users; and

providing the proposed response to the remote users based on the remote user identification information.

Sub AB > 8. A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for aggregating and satisfying demand for travel products, the method comprising:

aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information; and

providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users based on the remote user identification information.

9. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information includes:

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of travel product suppliers; and

receiving responses from a set of the travel product suppliers, each response including information reflecting a proposed group travel product, wherein each proposed group travel product reflects a discount for the corresponding travel product that is determined based on the aggregated information, and wherein providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users based on the remote user identification information includes:

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transmitting travel option information related to at least one of the proposed
group travel products to a set of the remote users based on the aggregated
information.

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notifying the supplier associated with the selected package response the

~~purchase commitment.~~

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notifying each of the plurality of users of each package response using stored information identifying a location to address any package responses to each of the user.

receiving a purchase commitment from a first user of the plurality of users, including information identifying a package response selected by the first user and payment information identifying the first user's selected form of payment for the selected package response.

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commitment.

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means for notifying each of the plurality of users of each package response using stored information identifying a location to address any package responses to each of the user.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

means for receiving a purchase commitment from a first user of the plurality of users, including information identifying a package response selected by the first user and payment information identifying the first user's selected form of payment for the selected package response.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
means for notifying the supplier associated with the selected package response
the purchase commitment.

19. A system for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, comprising:

- means for receiving information reflecting demand for a set of items by a plurality of users;
- means for providing a plurality of suppliers with a notification reflecting the demand information;
- means for receiving one or more package responses from suppliers, each package response representing a supplier's offering intended by the supplier to satisfy the demand; and
- means for notifying each of the plurality of users of each package response using stored information identifying a location to address any package responses to each of the user.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising:

- means for receiving a purchase commitment from a first user of the plurality of users, including information identifying a package response selected by the first user and payment information identifying the first user's selected form of payment for the selected package response.

21. The system of claim 20, further comprising:

- means for notifying the supplier associated with the selected package response

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